

Michael Castle

U.S. House of Representatives, Member-at-Large, Delaware

A former Deputy Attorney General, state legislator, Lieutenant Governor and two-term Governor of Delaware, Mike Castle is currently serving a record ninth term as Delaware's lone member in the U.S. House of Representatives. Since coming to the U.S. Congress in 1993, he has worked to bring the common-sense approach of Delaware's bipartisan legislating to Washington, D.C. He has been building bridges and forming coalitions to find pragmatic, bipartisan solutions to some of the most pressing problems facing the country, and believes strongly in returning the Congressional agenda to issues that really matter to the American people.

Castle has played a key role in enacting many important laws that improve the lives of all Americans, including welfare reform, the Balanced Budget Act, the Crime Bill, the No Child Left Behind Act, vocational education, and campaign finance, medical research and intelligence reform. Castle consistently uses his leadership as a negotiator to improve legislation before it comes to the House floor, most recently ensuring that important social programs like health and education do not suffer unnecessary funding cuts.

Castle is the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, which has jurisdiction over preschool through secondary education, including career and technical education. Additionally, he serves on the Higher Education, Lifelong Learning and Competitiveness Subcommittee, where he has worked to reauthorize the Higher Education Act that has included provisions aimed at increasing transparency, driving down college costs and eliminating diploma mills. Some of Castle's priorities include obesity prevention and child nutrition, Head Start and the recruitment of highly qualified teachers.

Castle also serves on the House Committee on Financial Services, which has jurisdiction over banking and the securities and insurance industries. In this capacity, he has authored legislation to protect sensitive data to shield consumers from identity theft. Castle also is working to ensure the viability of low-income housing programs, examining the impact of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act on corporations, and studying ways to help more consumers obtain access to the credit they need.

Among Castle's other priorities are rail and port security, environmental protection, Amtrak reform, immigration reform, medical and diabetes research, ethics and lobbying reform, reducing the price of prescription drugs, protecting Delaware's beaches, deficit reduction, and implementing his vision to turn the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal into a recreational area for biking, hiking, fishing and running.

Castle also is a member of the Republican Main Street Partnership, which he co-founded in 1998 to promote thoughtful leadership in the Republican Party, to serve as a voice for centrist Republicans, and to partner with individuals, organizations and institutions that share centrist values.

Castle was born and raised in Wilmington, Delaware, where he currently lives with his wife, Jane. He is a graduate of Tower Hill School, Hamilton College and Georgetown University Law School.